

Syllabus

«World Politics and International Relations»

Утверждена / Approved by

Академическим советом ОП «Политология» /

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I. Course Description

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Number of credits	4
Contact hours	70
Independent work (hours)	82
Year	3
Course type	Compulsory
Course format	Without using an online course

Course prerequisites: students starting this course are expected to have a good knowledge of Political History of Russia and Foreign Countries, Economics, History of Political Ideas, and Political Theory.

This course is an introduction to the study of world politics and international relations. It combines a focus on major theoretical and methodological approaches with foreign policy formation and pressing issues of world politics.

The course is organized around four main goals. The first is to introduce students to the study of international relations (IR) as a sub-discipline of political science. The second goal is to introduce students to major concepts, ideas, and issues in IR that shape its field. We will explore the essential problems and puzzles in the study of world politics and international relations: Why do states go to war? Under what conditions do they choose to settle disputes without fighting? What is the role of international institutions in world politics? How can institutions and norms shape behavior of a state? Under what conditions do politicians take into account the preferences of groups or the general public when foreign policy decisions are made? Why do leaders decide to start trade wars? The third goal is to invite students to critically reflect on the relationship between theory and history in the study of world politics. The fourth goal is to stimulate students to critically read and understand academic texts and political statements.

This course is not about Russia, the United States, China, the EU. This course is not about retelling the news and criticizing particular leaders or countries. Students will learn theories, concepts, models, and ideas that can be used to analyze the choices available to leaders and to understand the rationale behind their choices. We will discuss foreign policies of particular countries, or what is shown in the news in order to assess how theories and concepts explain the choices seemingly available to leaders. We will not be making judgements on moral or partisan grounds. Our approach is mostly evidence-based.

The working language of the course is English.

II. Learning Objectives

Students are expected to:

- **master theoretical approaches** to the analysis of international and transnational interactions and foreign policy analysis tools;
- **gain knowledge** of the characteristics of major actors in world politics;
- **understand** how the contemporary international system was formed;
- **familiarize** with the pressing issues of world politics.

III. Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students are expected to:

- **Have knowledge of** major concepts, ideas, and theories of IR
- **Be able to** apply tools of IR research and foreign policy analysis to analyze problem situations in the sphere of international relations and world politics
- **Analyze** critically the political statements and the news on world politics issues
- **Be able to** identify complex relationship between national, international, and transnational politics

The main provisions of the course are expected to be applied while taking the following courses: Political Economy, Technologies of Symbolic Politics, etc.

IV. Course Plan

Theme 1. Introduction to class and IR as a sub-discipline of political science

Structure and idea of the course. The big puzzles in the course. Ongoing conflicts in the world. What international order is and is not today. Discussions on the liberal world order.

Theme 2. How to study IR and world politics: A very brief introduction. Levels of analysis in IR

Levels of analysis in international relations. Level-of-analysis problem. Requirements for an analytical model. Microscopic level of analysis according to Waltz: optimistic and pessimistic view. Second-image and third-image analysis. International system as a level of analysis. The national state as a level and object of analysis.

Theme 3. How was our world shaped?

The making and expansion of the territorial state, European imperialism, the World Wars, the Cold War and its consequences.

Theme 4. Actors, preferences and interests, institutions, and interactions

Interests and motivations. Categories of interests at individual and collective level. States as actors. National interest. Actors and interests in world politics.

Formal and informal institutions. International institutions and cooperation in world politics. Cooperation and bargaining. Cooperation and coordination. Biased institutions. Problems of collaboration. Factors facilitating cooperation.

Reversion outcome. Coercion, outside options and agenda setting.

Theme 4. Brief introduction to anarchy and cooperation in world politics: Paradigmatic approaches to understand them

Realism, neorealism. Idealism, liberalism and neoliberalism. Constructivism. History of theories and key thinkers. Evaluating a theory. Interests, institutions and interactions according to each theory. Old and new realism. Waltz's theory.

Major schools of thought in the U.S. foreign policy.

Theme 6. Why are there wars between states?

“Old” and “new” wars. Transformation of warfare. Civil wars. Approaches to definition of war. War and change in world politics. Diplomacy and violence. Criteria for analysis of wars. Information and uncertainty before outbreak and termination of war.

Means of getting what you want in world politics. Political uses of force today. Nuclear proliferation. Suicide terrorism. Strategic culture.

Theories aiming to explain wars. Preventive motive. Wars by misperception or mistake. Wars because of domestic interests.

System-level theories. Classical realism, neorealism, defensive realism, offensive realism, and neoclassical realism. Security dilemma. Spiral model of war and peace. Deterrence model. “Balance of threat” theory. Hegemonic theories: power transition theories, long-cycle theories.

Bargaining theory of war. Termination and outbreak of war.

Theme 7. Domestic politics and wars

Conflicts of interests. General and particularistic interests. Unitary actor assumption. The role of domestic institutions. Strategic advantages of domestic actors.

Rally-round-the-flag effect. Socio-psychological explanations. Diversionary incentive. Risks of rally-round-the-flag effect. War outcome and leader's staying in office. Type of political system and leader's costs.

Small-group dynamics in foreign policy. Groupthink. Group polarization hypothesis.

Military and instigation of war. Organizational interests. Governmental politics model. Organizational process model. Interest groups. Small groups.

Democratic peace theory. The democratic culture and norms model. The institutional constraints model.

Autocratic and democratic leaders' war costs. Minimization of war costs in democracies. Role of domestic political audiences in escalation of international disputes.

Theme 8. Status considerations in world politics

Status as an explanation of foreign policy outcomes. Types of statuses. Status-seeking behavior of states. Rogue states. Revisionist states. Superpowers.

Theme 9. International law and norms. human rights in world politics. logic of appropriateness and logic of consequentialism

International law as an institution. Two properties of international law. Dimensions of law. High-obligation and low-obligation laws. Hard and soft law.

Three categories of norms. Evolution of norms. Transnational advocacy networks. Humanitarian intervention. Responsibility to protect. The trials of global norms.

Theme 10. International trade: winners and losers, the international political economy of trade, trends and patterns in international trade

Why do countries trade? Comparative advantage. The Heckscher-Ohlin trade theory. Factors of production. Sources of influence on international trade. The domestic political economy of protection. Nontariff barriers to trade. Trade wars.

Theme 11. International financial and monetary relations

Portfolio investment. Foreign direct investment. Concessional finance. Private lending to foreign governments. Use of loans. Measures to service government's debts. Default. Foreign direct investment and foreign policy.

The political economy of exchange rates. Relative interest rates. Fixed and floating exchange rate. Monetary policy.

Theme 12. What to expect from tomorrow: The future of IR and world politics

Prospects for future world order. Global trends and global risks.

V. Resources and reading list

Required reading

1. De Mesquita B.B. and Smith A. Domestic Explanations of International Relations // Annual Review of Political Science. - 2012 - Vol. 15. - P. 161-181. – URL: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-070209-174835>. – *Annual Reviews*.
2. Fearon J.D. Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy, and Theories of International Relations // Annual Review of Political Science. - 1998. - Vol. 1. - P. 289-313. – URL: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.polisci.1.1.289>. – *Annual Reviews*.
3. Oxford Handbook of International Relations / Reus-Smit C., Snidal D. (eds.). – Oxford; NY: Oxford University Press, 2008. – 772 p. – URL: <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199219322.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199219322?rskey=N9agsd&result=37>. – *Oxford References Online, Oxford Scholarship Online, Oxford English Dictionary Online, Oxford Handbooks Online, Oxford Art Online*

Optional readings

1. Frieden J. The Governance of International Finance // Annual Review of Political Science. - 2016. - Vol. 19. P. 33-48. – URL: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-053014-031647>. – *Annual Reviews*.
2. Telegram from Nikolai Novikov, Soviet Ambassador to the US, to the Soviet Leadership," September 27, 1946, History and Public Policy Program Digital Archive, AVP SSSR, f. 06. op. 8, p. 45, p. 759, published in Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn' #11, 1990, pp. 148-154, translated for CWIHP by Gary Goldberg. URL: <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/110808>.
3. Oxford Handbook of Transformations of the State / Leibfried S., Huber E., Lange M., Levy J.D., Stephens J.D. – N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 2015. – 898 p. URL: <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199691586.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199691586>. - *Oxford References Online, Oxford Scholarship Online, Oxford English Dictionary Online, Oxford Handbooks Online, Oxford Art Online*
4. Pandya S.S. Political Economy of Foreign Direct Investment: Globalized Production in the Twenty-First Century // Annual Review of Political Science. - 2016 - Vol. 19. - P. 455-475. –

URL: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-051214-101237> - *Annual Reviews*.

5. Powell R. Bargaining Theory and International Conflict // Annual Review of Political Science. - 2002. - Vol. 5. - P. 1-30. - URL: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.polisci.5.092601.141138>. - *Annual Reviews*.
6. Sagan S.D. The Causes of Nuclear Weapons Proliferation // Annual Review of Political Science. - 2011 - Vol. 14. - P.225-244. - URL: <https://www.annualreviews.org/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-052209-131042?intcmp=trendmd> - *Annual Reviews*.
7. Spruyt H. The Origins, Development and Possible Decline of the Modern State // The Annual Review of Political Science. - 2002. - No. 5. - P. 127-149. - URL: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.polisci.5.101501.145837> - *Annual Reviews*.

Professional Databases, Information Referral Systems, Internet-Resources (Electronic Educational Resources)

№	Designation	Access conditions
<i>Professional Databases, Information Referral Systems</i>		
1.	Annual Reviews	<i>Accessible from the HSE network (contract)</i> URL: https://www.annualreviews.org/action/showPublications
2.	Oxford References Online, Oxford Scholarship Online, Oxford English Dictionary Online, Oxford Handbooks Online, Oxford Art Online	<i>Accessible from the HSE network (contract)</i> URL: http://www.oxfordreference.com/

VI. Grading System

Final grade is calculated from the following elements:

1. Exam score
2. Cumulative grade which is calculated from following tasks:
 - Seminar attendance
 - Active Participation in a Simulation (an interactive game in the middle of course that will allow students to examine which one of the major theories of International relations would explain their own behavior if they had to make high-level decisions in times of global crisis)
 - Seminar participation (active involvement in discussions)
 - Quizzes written during the seminars
 - Tests

Cumulative grade in ten-mark scale ($G_{\text{cumulative}}$) is calculated from 5 grades for Seminar Participation (W_{seminars}), Active Participation in a Simulation (Game) (W_{game}), Active Participation in Discussions ($W_{\text{discussions}}$), Quizzes (W_{quizzes}), and Tests (W_{tests}).

$$G_{\text{cumulative}} = 0,1 * W_{\text{seminars}} + 0,1 * W_{\text{game}} + 0,15 * W_{\text{discussions}} + 0,25 * W_{\text{quizzes}} + 0,4 * W_{\text{tests}}$$

$$G_{\text{final}} = 0,6 * G_{\text{cumulative}} + 0,4 * G_{\text{exam}}$$

We employ an arithmetic rounding method to calculate the cumulative and final grade. If decimal part of the grade turns out equal in accuracy 0,5, the grade is rounded up.

The course does not contain blocking grades.

Student is not given the opportunity to get additional mark for compensation of elements of Cumulative grade on the late examination.

VII. Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment

First, students are expected to attend seminars, participate in discussions, and complete regular quizzes. The class format necessarily creates mutual obligations among students to come prepared to discuss both the readings and the lecture materials. If only a few people in a group or the class are regularly doing the reading and prepared for simulation work, our discussions will stumble as the bulk of students rely on a minority to carry them. Such a situation penalizes those students doing the readings as they then are pushed to shoulder more responsibility in class. To avoid this situation while fostering a stimulating and productive intellectual environment in class, students' attendance and participation will be tracked regularly throughout the semester with two mechanisms – random quizzes and attendance control. The quizzes will be drawn from the reading materials assigned for that day and the previous lectures.

Second, given the nature of the readings in English, students will be assigned the task of critiquing the assigned readings in a seminar format. The seminar leader will expect students to be able to demonstrate that they have done the readings by performing such tasks as summarizing the main arguments, critiquing author's claims, drawing out policy implications, suggesting how an author's argument may apply to another issue area, or highlighting similarities and differences with other readings.

Third, students will take 4 tests based on the classroom material.

Fifth, students will take a written exam (multiple choice questions and a short essay).

Examples of Questions and Assignments

Test questions

Fill in the gaps

Correlate the ascribed interests (Table 2) with respective actors in world politics (Table 1). Two interests are to be left out as not fully correct.

Table 1

Actor	Ascribed interests (use the letter indicating an interest)
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	for an appropriate actor)
States	
Politicians	
Firms, industries, or business associations	
Classes	
Bureaucracies	
International organizations	
Transnational or international NGOs	

Table 2

	Ascribed interests
A	Profit and a market share in global economy
B	Environment and peace
C	Security and power, welfare, ideology
D	Normative, ideological, or policy goals, etc.
E	Budget maximization, influence, policy preferences
F	Reflect the interests of member states as well as budget maximization, influence, policy preferences
G	Material well-being and power
H	Security and power
I	Reelection or retention of power, ideology, and policy goals

Examples of exam questions

1. Multiple choice

Choose the events which can be qualified as wars (according to Levy and Thompson, 2010):

Choose all correct answers

- A. Six Days War (1969)
- B. Second Lebanon War (2007)

- C. Soviet-Chinese clashes around the Ussuri River (1969)
- D. Cold War 1.0
- E. Cold War 2.0
- F. Soviet invasion in Hungary (1956)
- G. Warsaw Pact invasion in Czechoslovakia (1968)
- H. War on Drugs (US, 1971-present times)

2. Essay

Write an essay (not less than 300 words). If you demonstrate a perfect knowledge of the course, especially the readings, if your arguments are clear, if you use the appropriate theories (naming their authors and representatives), this essay can give you up to 40 points.

You can choose out of the following topics:

- A. Thomas Schelling concludes his famous *The Diplomacy of Violence* (1970) with the following phrase: “Small wars embody the threat of a larger war, they are not just military engagements, but crisis diplomacy”. What does he mean by this? Please explain the crucial factors that have changed modern war in Schelling’s perspective.
- B. President Trump says that “trade wars are good and easy to win”. What is the logic (or rather logics – theoretical (political economy) and political) behind this statement?

VIII. Methods of Instruction

Lectures are aimed at introducing students to particular issues in IR.

In addition to lectures, there are seminars. Participation in seminars is accounted for. During seminars, students are expected to be prepared to discuss a particular topic. Reading of the required material should be completed before a seminar. The main purpose of seminars is the discussion of the reading and lecture materials.

IX. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)

Technical Equipment

Nº n/n	Designation	Access conditions
1.	Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS	<i>From the internal network of university (agreement)</i>
2.	Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010	<i>From the internal network of university (agreement)</i>

Material and Technic Support for the Course

Lecture rooms provide the usage and demonstration of thematic illustrations, responding to the syllabus of the course consisting of:

- PC with access to the Internet (operational system, office programs and anti-virus software);
- remote controlled multimedia projector.